monitoring system of stock watch by exchanges. A regular system of weekly surveillance meetings with major stock exchanges, *viz.*, Bombay Stock Exchange, National Stock Exchange and the Depositories, has been put in place to provide a confidential platform for exchange of views on areas of emerging concerns, specific abnormalities, and to consider pre-emptive actions and discuss general surveillance issues. Based on discussions in the weekly meetings, SEBI in consultation with exchanges initiates several preventive surveillance measures including imposition of additional margins, reduction of gross exposure limits and shifting of scripts to trade for trade segment during the last year. SEBI in consultation with exchanges has also laid down standard criteria for initiating/reviewing with surveillance actions.

Grant-in-aid to Maharashtra

*135. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Maharashtra has requested for Grant-in-aid from Central Government for Tricentenary Anniversary of Gur-ta-Gaddi at Nanded city;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Chief Minister, Maharashtra *vide* his letter dated 08.02.2005 and 09.03.2005 addressed to the Prime Minister and letter dated 25.07.2005 addressed to the Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, has requested for financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 425 crore from the Government of India, for commemorating the Tricentenary Anniversary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi at Nanded city in October, 2008 on the lines of "Simhastha Kumbhamela" held at Nasik for which the Government of India had sanctioned Rs. 100 crores as Additional Central Assistance.

For celebration of the above Anniversary, the State Government expects 2.5 million Sikh pilgrims to collect from all over the country. Collector, Nanded has prepared a development plan of Rs. 817 crores for this purpose, which includes development of Gurudwara (Rs. 210 crores), Camp development (Rs. 215 crore) and City development (Rs. 392 crore).

The Planning Commission has informed that they had advised the State Government to follow a project approach and consider trying up the resources from all the stakeholders and at a later stage approach the Commission for filling up any gap in resources.

Handing over of LPG distribution to private players

†*136. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to hand over the supply of LPG to private companeis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of companies which will be given permission for supplying LPG?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In addition to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) who are marketing LPG in the country, since April, 1993 Government have allowed private sector companeis to participate in the scheme of parallel marketing of LPG, under which these companies can import LGP and sell it at market-determined prices.

In February 2005, the Government have also authorized Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to market indigenously produced LPG in the country, subject to the following:-

(i) Till 31.3.2006, after meeting the demand of OMCs in full as per industry logistics plan, these companies are authorised to sell seasonally surplus LPG subject to this not exceeding 20% of their total sale of LPG.

(ii) After 1.4.2006, ONGC, GAIL and RIL are authorised to market LPG but their sale of bulk (non-domestic) LPG should not exceed 20% of total sales of LPG, the remaining 80% being earmarked for domestic LPG.

(iii) ONGC, GAIL and RIL would have to strictly adhere to the provision of the LPG (regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 dated 26.4.2000 and the LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order, 2001 dated 1.8.2001 for sale of LPG in domestic and non-domestic markets.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.